

Cherry Home- 1602 Ave. ~~H.~~ *Church*
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas

HABS NO. Tex-252

HABS
TEX.

84-GALV

7-

**ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...**

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District # 6 Tex2

Historic American Buildings Survey
Birdsall P. Briscoe, District Officer
6301 Main Street, Houston, Texas

CHERRY HOME
Galveston, Galveston County, Texas
1602 Ave. E. *Church*

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Owner E. R. Schmidt

Date of Erection 1840 1852-1854

Architect

Builder Wilbur Cherry

Present Condition Good

Number of Stories Two stories

Other Existing Records

Materials of Construction

Additional Data This home was the only house in several blocks to escape the fire which swept several blocks on November 13, 1885.

Wilbur Cherry was one of the leading business men of Galveston during the 1840's. He married the widow of George H. French, founder of the Galveston News in 1842, and was active in newspaper work for several years.

With its simple lines this place has real architectural value. It has no applied or meaningless decorations. Facing west the two story porch with superimposed columns breaks the glare of the sun and shades the rooms behind them. The house was designed for comfort and not for show. The naive junction of its two main parts causes the subordinate portion at the rear to appear as an addition. But this is not the case. The place today is, except for the porch railing, as originally built.

ADDENDUM
FOLLOWS...

H.W. Sep. 15 '36

Addendum to:

HABS No. TX-252

Wilbur F. Cherry House

1602 Church Street

(Northwest corner of 16th and Church Streets)

Galveston

Galveston County

Texas

as recorded in 1936

HABS

TEX

84-GALV,

7-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS NO. Tx-252

WILBUR F. CHERRY HOUSE

An Addendum to:
"Wilbur F. Cherry House"
1602 Church St.
Galveston
Galveston County
Texas

Location: 1602 Church St. (NW corner of 16th and Church
Sts), Galveston, Galveston County, Texas.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Beatrice C. Guttierrez.

Present Use: Residence.

Significance: This house represents the typical Greek Revival
residence of the early days of Galveston. Cherry,
the original owner of the dwelling, founded what
is today the oldest newspaper in Texas.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: Between 1852-54.
2. Builder, contractor, supplier: It is believed that Wilbur Cherry built this house.
3. Alterations and additions: Several additions have been added to the rear. The largest is a one room, two-story addition at the northeast corner of the house. All additions appear to be much later than the house.

B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure:

Wilbur Cherry, born in New Haven, New York in 1820, came to Texas at an early date and participated in the Texas war of independence in 1836. Following the cessation of hostilities, he, along with Michael Cronican, decided to try their hand at newspaper publishing. They bought the press and type from Samuel Bangs, who had the distinction of publishing Galveston's first newspaper, and embarked on a new career.

Cherry, however, was less than adept as an editor and in 1844 hired Willard Richardson for the task. Richardson bought out Cherry the following year and soon developed the Galveston News into Texas' leading newspaper, a position it kept until the end of the century. The News is still published and is the oldest newspaper in the state.

Sometime between 1852-54, Cherry built this house and lived in it for an unknown length of time. In 1885 a disastrous fire swept through the area of the city in which the house is located, consuming some forty blocks; this structure was one of the few not burned.

C. Bibliography:

Brindley, Anne Historic Galveston Homes, 1951, p 8.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
Director
Galveston Architecture Inventory
March 21, 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The house is typical of the less-pretentious Greek Revival residences in early Texas. It is a two story frame building with the typical central hall flanked on each side by one room. A double gallery extends across the front and is supported by square wood pillars. The roof is gabled and exterior chimneys are located at each end gable.
2. Condition of fabric: The building is in good condition.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimension: The dwelling is two stories in height and measures 20' x 36', including gallery (5' deep).
2. Foundations: Brick piers.
3. Wall construction: The building is a heavy braced-framed structure with weatherboard siding, which is now covered by aluminum siding.
4. Porch: A three bay double gallery extends across the front facade. It is supported by square pillars having simple antae moldings for capitals. A wood railing encloses the porch. Access to the porch is by a set of wooden steps in the central bay.

5. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The entrance doorway is typical of this style, having glass transom and side-lights.
- b. Windows: All windows are six-over-six light double-hung wood sash.
- c. Roof: The roof is a simple gable with shingles. A characteristic classical molded cornice makes a return at each end.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plan: The original house consisted of a central stair-hall flanked by a parlor at each side. In later years other additions have been added at the rear.
- 2. Stairway: Located on west wall of the hall, the stairway is a quarter-turn stair with winders and has heavy but simple newel post and railing.
- 3. Floor: All floors wood and appear to be modern.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Ceilings have modern fiber tiles; walls, modern wallpaper.
- 5. Doors: Typical molded four panel wood doors.
- 6. Trim: Typical molded wood trim around doors and windows.
- 7. Mechanical equipment:
 - a. Hardware: Some original pintel hinges and rim locks of the period are extant.
 - b. Lighting: Electricity; fixtures modern.
 - c. Heating: Natural gas, fixtures modern; fireplaces covered.

D. Site:

- 1. Orientation and general setting: The house occupies the northwest corner of 16th and Church Streets on Block 436. It faces south and has very narrow side and front yards.

Prepared by: John C. Garner, Jr.
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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

The Galveston Survey was jointly sponsored by the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historical Preservation and the Galveston Historical Foundation Inc., and developed under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). The historical data was written by John C. Garner, Jr., acting as the Director of the Galveston Architecture Inventory. The written data was edited for transmittal to the Library of Congress in the summer of 1980 by Kent R. Newell of the HABS staff. The photographs were taken by Allen Stross in the summer of 1967.